AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Serial Number: 09/945,535 Filing Date: August 30, 2001

Title: HIGHLY RELIABLE AMORPHOUS HIGH-K GATE OXIDE ZrO2

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a gate oxide on a transistor body region, comprising:

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially single element metal layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table; and

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 400 °C.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing with atomic oxygen.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a gate oxide on a transistor body region, comprising:

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially single element metal layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table; and

oxidizing the metal layer using a krypton(Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process to form a metal oxide layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region.

- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 11. (Canceled)
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 400 °C.
- 14. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a transistor, comprising: forming first and second source/drain regions; forming a body region between the first and second source/drain regions;

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially single element metal layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region; and

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coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.

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- 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- 19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.
- 20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing with atomic oxygen.
- 21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a memory array, comprising: forming a number of access transistors, comprising:

forming first and second source/drain regions;

forming a body region between the first and second source/drain regions;

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially single element metal layer directly contacting [[on]] the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer directly contacting [[on]] the body region;

coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer;

forming a number of wordlines coupled to a number of the gates of the number of access transistors;

forming a number of sourcelines coupled to a number of the first source/drain regions of the number of access transistors; and

forming a number of bitlines coupled to a number of the second source/drain regions of the number of access transistors.

- 23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 24. (Canceled)
- 25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 - 400 °C.
- 27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.
- 28. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing with atomic oxygen.
- 29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.

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30. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an information handling system, comprising: forming a processor;

forming a memory array, comprising:

forming a number of access transistors, comprising:

forming first and second source/drain regions;

forming a body region between the first and second source/drain regions; evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially single element metal layer directly contacting [[on]] the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer <u>directly contacting</u>
[[on]] the body region;

coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer;

forming a number of wordlines coupled to a number of the gates of the number of access transistors;

forming a number of sourcelines coupled to a number of the first source/drain regions of the number of access transistors;

forming a number of bitlines coupled to a number of the second source/drain regions of the number of access transistors; and

forming a system bus that couples the processor to the memory array.

- 31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 32. (Canceled)
- 33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein electron beam evaporation depositing the metal layer includes electron beam evaporation of a 99.9999% pure metal target material.
- 34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing at an approximate substrate temperature range of 150 400 °C.

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35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing at a temperature of approximately 400 °C.

- 36. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing with atomic oxygen.
- 37. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.
- 38. 50. (Canceled)
- 51. (Currently Amended) A transistor formed by the process, comprising: forming a body region coupled between a first source/drain region and a second source/drain region;

evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially single element metal layer directly contacting [[on]] the body region using electron beam evaporation, the metal being chosen from the group IVB elements of the periodic table;

oxidizing the metal layer to form a metal oxide layer directly contacting [[on]] the body region; and

coupling a gate to the metal oxide layer.

- 52. (Original) The transistor of claim 51, wherein evaporation depositing the metal layer includes evaporation depositing a zirconium layer.
- 53. (Canceled)
- 54. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein oxidizing the metal layer includes oxidizing using a krypton (Kr)/oxygen (O₂) mixed plasma process.

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55. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a gate oxide on a transistor body region, comprising:

electron beam evaporation depositing a substantially amorphous and substantially pure zirconium layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region; and

oxidizing the zirconium layer to form a metal oxide layer <u>directly contacting</u> [[on]] the body region.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein oxidizing the zirconium layer includes oxidizing a zirconium layer to form an oxide with a conduction band offset in a range of approximately 5.16 eV to 7.8 eV.

57. - 61. (Canceled)